

FOREIGN BROADCAST
INFORMATION SERVICE

JUNE 12, 1963

STATSPEC

MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATION

HAVANA PRENSA LATINA IN SPANISH TO LATIN AMERICA 0050 12 JUN 63 E

(TEXT) NEW YORK--PEOPLES BROADCASTING COMPANY PRESIDENT HERBERT E. EVANS COMPLAINED THAT THE PLAN TO SET UP THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL RADIO STATION ON COSTA RICAN TERRITORY SEEMS TO HAVE ONLY ONE PURPOSE--"TO CREATE HEAVY INTERFERENCE WITH HUNDREDS OF STATIONS" BESIDES CREATING CHAOS IN CENTRAL AMERICAN RADIO OPERATIONS.

THE TRINITY TEXAS FOUNDATION PLANS TO INSTALL IN COSTA RICA A TRANSMITTER CAPABLE OF OPERATING WITH A POWER OF 2 MILLION WATTS. THE VOICE OF AMERICAN AND THE BRITISH BROADCASTING COMPANY TRANSMIT WITH A POWER OF ONLY ONE MILLION WATTS.

EVANS SAID THAT AT THE OUTSET HE FELT CERTAIN THAT THE NEW RADIO STATION WOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY.

JOSE LUIS FERNANDEZ, THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN RADIO BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION, EXPRESSED CONCERN IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER. HE STATED THAT LATIN AMERICAN SOURCES FEAR THAT SUCH A POWERFUL TRANSMITTER WOULD DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF LISTENERS FROM OTHER STATIONS IN THIS AREA. FERNANDEZ REQUESTED THAT COASTA RICAN PRESIDENT FRANCISCO ORLICH NOT PERMIT THE RADIO STATION BE SET UP. EVANS ALSO CALLED THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF U. S. RADIO STATIONS, INFORMING THEM THAT THEIR OPERATIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW TRANSMITTER.

12 JUN 810P FTR/TN

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